

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Units from Iraq's 2d Army Corps launched a "sweeping attack" early on 31 January, occupying new positions, inflicting heavy losses on the Iranians, and capturing large numbers of enemy troops and weapons, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The new Iraqi attack was in the central sector, according to a related INA report. Monitored Iranian media have not thus far mentioned the offensive. Earlier, Iraq announced another raid on shipping in the Gulf, claiming in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio that Iraqi planes delivered an "accurate and effective" strike against a "very large maritime target" on 30 January.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn reviewed the military situation during talks with visiting King Husayn and other Jordanian officials, including the Jordanian Armed Forces commander, according to Amman radio. The Iraqi-Jordanian talks also focused on bilateral relations and the Arab situation, voice of the Masses radio noted.

OPEC

Nine OPEC states have agreed on a new price structure in which the maximum differential between heavy and light crudes will be reduced to \$2.40 by cutting prices of the lighter oils while maintaining Arab heavy crude at \$26.50 per barrel, according to an official press release on the Geneva meeting carried by OPECNA. Algeria, Iran, and Libya "dissociated" themselves from the decision and Gabon abstained. The agreement reduces the price of Arab light to \$28 per barrel, and the UAE petroleum minister stated in remarks reported by SPA that the new price structure abolishes Arab light's role as a "marker" price. His Saudi counterpart, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, predicted that OPEC will maintain its current production ceiling and disclosed that he has commissioned a Dutch firm to audit OPEC output and prices, according to OPECNA. Meanwhile, the Algerian energy minister criticized the "unfair" new price structure in a statement cited by Algiers radio, adding that Algeria will henceforth fix its oil prices in accordance with the market situation.

Lebanon

Damascus Talks — Syria and Lebanon agree on the need to bolster the unity government by implementing security measures in West Beirut and opening the Beirut-Damascus and coastal highways, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stated at a press conference broadcast by Damascus television after further talks with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and other Lebanese leaders. Karami confirmed the intention to open the Beirut-Damascus and Beirut-Tripoli highways, telling the journalists that he would begin working on this immediately after his return to Beirut.

Security — A random bombardment by an artillery piece based in the western sector injured six people in East Beirut on 31 January, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon announced. Meanwhile, the IDF has completed the evacuation of all its equipment from the Sidon area and has blown up bunkers and caves formerly used by the PLO, the radio noted.

Israel

Rabin in U.S. — Before examining the possibilities for expanding the peace process, Israel wants to strengthen its economy, solve the Lebanese problem, and improve relations with Egypt, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks broadcast by IDF radio. Rabin noted that he raised this "order of priorities" in his talks with President Ronald Reagan.

West Bank — Israeli military sources reacted "angrily" to an International Commission of Jurists report that accuses Israel of maltreating Arab detainees in the Farah Youth Detention Center near Nabulus, according to Jerusalem radio. The sources said the report is based on "false claims" originating from "hostile organizations" which manipulate legal organizations to spread their propaganda.

Libya

Chad Accusation — Chadian officials have publicized details of a Libyan plot to assassinate Chadian President Hissein Habre last year, Ndjamena radio announced.

Southern Sudan

Forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) recently raided Bor, capital of Jonglei province, killing or wounding 45 government soldiers, the clandestine SPLA radio announced.

Afghanistan

A letter from the PDPA Central Committee to the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, broadcast by Kabul radio, urged the PRC to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs through its "increasing support" for the "counterrevolutionary" bands. The DRA wants friendly and good-neighborly relations with China, the letter stressed, but in order to achieve this the PRC must end its hostility toward the Afghan revolution and stop supporting the rebels, who are currently receiving weapons and training from the Chinese.

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PDPA Letter Accuses China of 'Open War'

*LD302244 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
30 Jan 85*

[Text] The full text of a letter from the PDPA Central Committee to the Communist Party of China Central Committee:

Comrades:

The PDPA Central Committee deems it necessary, by sending this letter to the Communist Party of China Central Committee, to refer to the daily increasing interference by China in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and its increasing support for the Afghan counterrevolutionary forces. Undeniable facts exist regarding the increase of such support. Among the weapons being seized from the bandits, along with the war technology supplied by the United States and other NATO countries, every day more and more weapons with Chinese markings are seen.

China has set out an open war against the revolutionary regime in Afghanistan. It utilizes lies and slander in this war and helps toward the creation of antagonism against our regime and our people. The representatives of China openly speak about future broad military and other assistance to Afghan counterrevolutionary bands engaged in crimes on Afghan soil. Such a stand inspires righteous criticism.

Worst of all, the People's Republic of China, which itself has experienced the test of tolerating the heavy burden of imperialist oppression, a country who had passed along the hot and difficult path of emancipating revolutionary struggle, has taken such a stand.

We know very well the price paid for the victory of the people's revolution by the working masses of China and sacrifices and deprivations suffered by them.

The People's Liberation Army of China had been forced to forge ahead on a vigorous and long struggle for freedom, first of all, against the Japanese occupiers and then against the Kuomintang forces who had been supported by imperialist forces, mainly the United States.

At that time, as is obvious, the CPC was enjoying the formidable political and other assistance of the Soviet Union, which effectively assisted the Red Army of China in its struggle for the eradication of Japanese and Kuomintang forces in Manchuria in 1945, for the independence of China from the Japanese occupiers, and also against the domination of the Kuomintang.

It appeared that China, in having such a past experience, should have stood up at the start in support of the April revolution of 1978, as the Afghan patriots have been and are fighting, in most aspects, for the same objectives for which thousands of Chinese revolutionaries sacrificed themselves in the years of emancipating revolutionary war.

The PDPA, which has recently formally marked its 20th founding anniversary, had been struggling for more than 10 years in difficult and complex circumstances of secrecy for the victory of the revolution.

We have been and are struggling for the independence of Afghanistan, the emancipation of the people of Afghanistan from the domination of centuries of poverty, ignorance, and backwardness, and from the oppression of landlords and money-lenders, and for the construction of a society free of exploitation of man by man.

The revolution of Afghanistan took place against the despotic regime of Daod and in the name of the people's victory. The revolution at this very moment has brought about many gains as a gift to the people and has the right to be proud of its first gains.

The output of national economic production in 1983 has increased 15 percent in comparison to 1981, including 24 percent growth in government and mixed sectors.

Land and water reforms have forged ahead in Afghanistan. These reforms will raise the living standard of the country's inhabitants. Various economic collective cooperatives are being developed in the life of the people; 308 agricultural cooperatives, 138 consumer and trade cooperatives, and 140 cooperative outlets have been created.

All these are merely the preliminary steps.

Between 1979 and 1983 the wages of government workers and employees were increased twice.

The purchase price of raw cotton and sugar beets from peasants was increased twice. The government is spending large sums in the form of subsidies to stabilize basic commodities needed by the workers and employees. It is also subsidizing bus fares for city inhabitants.

During the past 5 years the number of hospitals increased by 85 percent and the number of physicians by 45 percent. More than one million illiterates were educated and became literate.

The party is following the firm policy of genuine democracy in the country and at this very moment the revolutionary sovereignty in our country is based on the growing and organizing unity of workers and peasants and reflects the fundamental interests of all workers and compatriots of Afghanistan. The creation of this sovereignty is the most important gain of our revolution.

We have now taken a new step for the attraction of an ever broader segment of the working masses to the participation in the affairs of government administration. The first step is being taken in the localities.

In accordance with the new law, the councils, jergas of the people's representatives and their executive committees, will be the new organs of sovereignty and administration in the localities.

The patriots of all nationalities, tribes and clans will be included in the composition of these bodies on a just basis.

The present sovereignty and administration in the localities will be democratized for the purpose of strengthening and consolidating the link of sovereignty with the people and assisting in the

task of speedy and more complete solution of issues in the interest of toilers.

The party attaches great value to the mass social organizations and regards them as the most important elements of the new political system.

The influence and effect of the trade unions, cooperatives, women's and youth organizations and other organizations which have been created in our country since the revolution are being expanded and broadened. Thus, we have at our disposal all necessary means, to the point where we can say they form the creativity and progress of the nature of our revolution.

Had those forces who want to keep Afghanistan in the margin of history and to make permanent the sorry state of poverty and backwardness, had they not acted against the revolution of Afghanistan, then revolutionary Afghanistan could have achieved further victories for the construction of a new life.

The criminal activities of these forces are the reason for the prevention of a fuller exposition of the creative nature of our revolution and further expansion of possibilities for improving the living conditions of the people.

The feudals, their servants and their agents, the lords of the tribes [words indistinct] and other elements who as a result of the revolution were deprived of their superior status in the society, are being united against our revolution.

They also succeeded, under the guise of false slogans, to attract some backward persons with a low level of understanding.

There is no doubt that if the enemies of the Afghan revolution had not had the external support of U.S. imperialism and of regional reaction, they would have been crushed speedily.

These forces are the instigators and practical organizers of the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

Class hatred of social progress and of the genuine freedom of the masses, and the striving for the creation of a spring-board on the southern borders of the Soviet Union for aggressive activities against the Soviet Union, are the dynamic and the incentive of the reactionary forces in their revengeful activities against the Afghan revolution.

But, if the basis for the unity of imperialism, regional reaction and Afghan counterrevolutionaries is class interests and the effort to suffocate all emancipating and democratic movements, then the participation of the People's Republic of China in this unity seems to be completely unnatural.

What has happened here is that a country, which talks so much about revolution and social progress, is assisting imperialism and various reactionaries who are united in hostility to revolution and progress, that is to say — if we were to call everything by its correct name — assisting the direct heirs of those who wanted to drown the Chinese revolution in blood?

It would have been understandable if Chinese agricultural technology, tractors, foodstuffs and Chinese machinery were imported to the new Afghanistan and Chinese specialists, shoulder to shoulder with Afghans, worked towards the economic and cultural reconstruction of our persecuted homeland and the elimination of the heavy legacy of the past feudal-tribal order. But instead, they send bands equipped with Chinese weapons from abroad in order to destroy hospitals and mosques, and prevent the peaceful and creative work of our people.

The People's Republic of China supplies the rebels with mortars, recoilless guns, antitank rocket launchers, antiaircraft weapons, artillery, rockets and other kinds of war technology. Our soldiers, who are repulsing the savage attacks of the internal counterrevolution and their supporting foreign forces, the enemies of Afghanistan, have captured a large amount of such weapons. Among these weapons there are 300 rounds of reactive [reactive] rockets and 12-barreled rocket launchers made in China.

Special camps have been set up in Xinjiang, the territory of China, close to the borders of Afghanistan where Chinese instructors train and arm counterrevolutionary bands, who are then sent to Afghanistan to fight against the legal Government of Afghanistan. Several hundred Chinese instructors are engaged in training Afghan bandits in the training centers inside Pakistani territory. In addition, this summer approximately 2,000 heavy machineguns, 1,000 antitank rockets, nearly half a million rounds of ammunition have been supplied to the anti-Afghan revolution agents through the Pakistani Army.

The question comes to mind of how all of this could be reconciled with the statements by the Chinese leaders concerning support for revolutionary and liberation struggles of the peoples. Such a policy is void of class approach and emanates from considerations alien to true internationalists.

Your stand in connection with the presence of the Soviet Union's limited military contingents in Afghanistan meets with our total opposition. These contingents are in Afghanistan in accordance with the United Nations Charter and on a legal basis under the Treaty of Friendship, good-neighborliness and Cooperation which was concluded between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in December 1978.

We would like to remind you that the Soviet Union, pursuing the noble principles of internationalist solidarity, in time rendered broad military assistance to the Chinese People's Liberation Army. There were Soviet military advisers in the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Time and time again, Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De, and Liu Shaoqi have each in turn broadly confessed the part of the Soviet Union in the victory of the people of China over the Kuomintang and its supporter, U.S. imperialism. The military assistance of the Soviet Union to revolutionary China was welcomed. But the right of our revolution to obtain such assistance is rejected. There is categorical and clear contradiction in your position.

We, the revolutionaries of Afghanistan, have no hostile feeling towards the Chinese Communist Party and the great people of China. In its turn Afghanistan firmly supported the entry of the People's Republic of China as a full member of the international

community and the Bandung Conference. We want to live with you in friendship and good-neighborliness and to expand mutually fruitful relations based on equal rights. In order to do this, it is necessary for China to cease its hostile policy in relation with the revolution of Afghanistan and to put an end to supporting counterrevolutionary forces. This matter is in accord with the interests of both of our peoples and of peace for all.

With comradely greetings,

[Signed] The PDPA Central Committee

Dost Receives Soviet Friendship Society Official
LD302106 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Shah Muhammad Dost met today in his office with Professor Anwar Aliyev, deputy chairman of the Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Afghanistan and head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries. At this meeting talks were held on subjects of mutual interest.

General, Senior Officers Wounded in Rebel Ambush
NC301723 Paris AFP in English 1706 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 30 (AFP) — A mujahidin ambush left 40 soldiers dead, some of them Soviets, and an Afghan general and two senior officers wounded in eastern Afghanistan last Monday, a Muslim resistance leader said today.

Speaking in Peshawar, on the border with Pakistan, Mowlai Jalaluddin Haqqani, who commands several thousand mujahidin fighters in the eastern provinces, said Major-General Muhammad Amin Hakim, chief of the 14th Afghan Division, was wounded along with two senior Afghan aides.

Commander Haqqani said a major Soviet-Afghan convoy moved out of Gardez last Sunday towards Khost in Paktia Province where resistance activities have recently been stepped up.

The convoy, which included four Soviet Army units and several thousand Afghan troops, was attacked in the Mengal area close to Chamkani District, believed to be a resistance stronghold.

Commander Haqqani, quoting Afghan soldiers who deserted in the ambush, said that in a first attack 24 soldiers died, while 16 Afghan officers were killed by rebels in a second attack.

It was not immediately clear whether the troops' movement towards the troubled Afghan provinces was halted.

According to Commander Haqqani, mujahidin were continuing to harass "enemy troops" in the Chamkani and adjoining areas and the communist regime's efforts to flush out guerrillas have not been successful.

Briefs

Soviet Amity Delegation Visit— Kabul, January 29, BAKHTAR — A two-week exhibition of photography depicting the progress of socialist countries and their cooperation with developing countries was inaugurated here today. The chief guest at the inauguration was Anwar Aliyev, vice-president of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society and the head of a delegation of the Union of the Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and Soviet-Afghan Cultural and Friendship Society. [Excerpts] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 30 Jan 85 LD*]

GDR Medical Aid — The GDR will provide Afghanistan with UNICEF medicine and assorted vaccinations, worth DM 200,000, in 1985 to protect children and mothers against contagious diseases. The first part of this assistance, which includes 50,000 (?cc's) of vaccine against measles; 20,000 [word indistinct], and 10,000 antitetanus doses, was presented to the DRA Ministry of Public Health by Dr Krugar, the GDR ambassador in Kabul, at a ceremony today. [Excerpt] [*Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 30 Jan 85 LD*]

Economic Achievements — Kabul, January 29, BAKHTAR — A periodical session of the Council of Ministers of the DRA reviewed the considerable achievements made in the sphere of national socio-economic development in the past nine months of the current Afghan year (begun March 20, 1984). According to the indices presented at the session, the activity of mechanized agricultural stations in the past nine months surpassed the plan by 40 percent and was higher by 38 percent as compared with the same period of the last Afghan year. The sale of cooperative products in the domestic and foreign markets has risen by 2.2 times as compared with the same period of the past year. The revenue plan of the state budget has been implemented by 110.5 percent. The revenue accruing from the domestic sources has surpassed the plan by 9.8 percent and has increased by 15.9 percent as compared to the last Afghan year. The production of natural gas has exceeded the plan by 3.8 percent, chemical fertilizer by 18.4 percent, construction stone by 8.2 percent, reinforced concrete by 2.6 percent, bread and bakery products by 8 percent, meat by 15.4, printing industry by 21.8 percent, and carpentry by 2.2 percent. [Excerpts] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 30 Jan 85 LD*]

Fertilizer Distribution— Improved wheat seed and chemical fertilizer worth 1,592,000 afghanis has been distributed to the members of the agricultural cooperatives of Jowzjan Province during the past 9 months of the current year by the Agricultural Cooperative Development Department of that province. [Excerpt] [*Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 28 Jan 85 LD*]

Gandhi on Nuclear Weapons, Sri Lanka, Punjab
BK310329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
 31 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, says if any country in the subcontinent possesses nuclear weapons it will be a point of no return in the region. He said this in an interview with a New Delhi fortnightly.

About Sri Lanka, the prime minister said what is needed is a settlement that will enable the 40,000 refugees in India to go back to their homes. Describing the incidents and happenings in Sri Lanka as terrible, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said a political settlement alone can create an atmosphere for their return. The problem of the ethnic Tamils there should be tackled with statesmanship, he said.

Referring to Punjab problem, he said no time frame can be set out to resolve the issue. We are going to sort out the problem anyway, but it would be a great help if some Sikhs either from the Akali Dal or from outside come forward and speak up against the extremists.

About the foreigners issue in Assam, the prime minister said the agitators are now in a much better mood for settlement and the government is trying to do whatever it could.

Referring to his plans to tackle major economic and political issues facing the country, the prime minister said decisions will have to be taken everywhere in every section. He said the entire tax structure is being simplified to help the people. The prime minister also emphasised the need for a change of approach toward education. He said the government wants to delink degrees from jobs to reduce the unemployment problem.

Trade, Cultural Protocol Signed With Mexico
FL302204 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2040 GMT
 30 Jan 85

[By Gregorio Alpizar]

[Text] New Delhi, 30 Jan (NOTIMEX) — Following President Miguel de la Madrid's visit to New Delhi, Mexico and India today signed an industrial, trade, technological, and cultural protocol of understanding to intensify exchange in these areas.

At the end of the second round of talks between the Mexican chief executive and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the agreement reached by the two delegations was made public.

India was especially interested in acquiring petroleum industry and pharmaceutical industry technology and technology for the production of sponge iron and other products.

Mexican industrialists contacted Indian entrepreneurs regarding the preparation by 1 March of a catalogue to facilitate the initiation of specific cooperation programs in textile and spinning mills, chemical fibers, and, especially, the petrochemical industry.

Another of the areas included in the protocol is that of biotechnology and, consequently, that of the joint science and technology commission created in September 1984 by the two nations.

Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Indian Minister of Education C. Pant have signed a cultural treaty to permit a permanent Mexican presence in India via 50 different mechanisms such as exchanges, shows, etc.

De la Madrid Departs for Meeting in Azores
FL310200 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0055 GMT
 31 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi, India, 30 Jan (NOTIMEX) — This morning, after concluding a 2-day state visit to India, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid departed for Mexico City.

The Mexican chief executive was seen off at 0900 at Palam International Airport, New Delhi, by President Zail Singh in a brief ceremony at which no speeches were given.

De la Madrid and his entourage left on board the presidential plane "Venustiano Carranza" for Palermo, Italy, where the plane will refuel before leaving for the Azore Islands, Portugal, for a brief meeting with Prime Minister Mario Soares.

President de la Madrid is accompanied by Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, the president's private secretary, Emilio Bamgoa Patron, Director of Social Communications Manuel Alonso Munoz, and Chief of the Presidential General Staff Carlos Humberto Bermudez.

Parliament Passes Antidefection Bill 30 Jan
BK301659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The Lok Sabha this evening unanimously passed the historic bill to amend the Constitution to ban defection by legislators both at the center and in the states — 418 members from both ruling and the opposition parties voted in its favor amidst cheers and thumping of desks. One member abstained.

The All India Radio parliamentary correspondent says it is very rare for the whole house to vote in favor of a Constitution amendment bill. This became possible largely as a result of the elaborate consultations the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had with leaders of opposition groups on the bill over the past few days informally. The last meeting in this series was held this morning. The bill was adopted with some government amendments.

The major amendment dropped the clause which provided for disqualification of the legislator if he is expelled from his party for activities outside the house.

Another important amendment provided that a member may not be disqualified if his voting against party instructions or abstention from voting is condoned by the party within 15 days of such voting or abstention.

The government's decision to introduce the amendments was announced by the law minister, Mr A.K. Sen, at the outset this morning while moving the bill for consideration. He said the amendments are being made in deference to the wishes of opposition and the consensus reached with them. His announcement was greeted with cheers by all sections of the house.

Intervening in the debate toward the close of the general discussion, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, described the bill as the first major step toward cleaning up public life. He announced that the government will take several other steps in this direction, including electoral and other reforms. In carrying out further reforms also, the government will carry the opposition with it, as it did in the case of the antidefection bill. He recalled the government's promise to clean up public life and said bringing forward the bill shows that it has the political will to implement what it promises. He pointed out that the bill covers new ground, which has not, probably, been covered anywhere in the world. Therefore, we have to tread cautiously rather than make a serious error, which we may repent later. Inevitably, there may be shortcomings in the bill, but government will examine how to remove them.

Referring to the decision to drop the clause which would enable disqualification of a member on being removed from his party, the prime minister said that logically this provision should have been retained. If we look at the party as a fundamental unit, then morally a member loses his right on being expelled from it. In fact, some opposition parties were keen that this provision should be retained.

The prime minister said in cases of defection or split, there could be a suspicion about a government losing its majority, but there may be a long gap till the next session of the legislature. This could lead to horse trading. The government will examine how to limit to the minimum the time (?to redeem their) suspicion of a ministry having lost its majority and the test of its strength in the house.

Winding up the general discussion, the law minister, Mr Ashok Sen, described the bill as yet another proof of the stability and maturity of Indian democracy. He allayed misapprehension voiced by some opposition members and said the idea of empowering the speaker or chairman of the house to decide whether a member should be deemed a defector was to prevent delay. We must have quick decisions if we want to outlaw defection effectively. There is no clash between the respective authorities of the Election Commission and the presiding officer.

The bill seeks to disqualify a member if he voluntarily gives up membership of the party on whose behalf he was elected to the house or votes in a manner contrary to the party's direction or abstains from voting in violation of party instruction. Any question about whether a member has become subject to disqualification on the ground of defection will be decided by the presiding officer of the concerned house and no court will have any jurisdiction in this regard. An independent member will be disqualified if he joins any party after his election. A nominated member, who does not belong to any party at the time of his

nomination, will be disqualified if he joins a party after 6 months from the date of his taking seat in the house. Members elected as presiding officers will not be disqualified on leaving their political parties.

The bill makes special provisions in regard to split in political parties or their merger.

During the discussion, members cutting across party line welcomed the bill.

Later, the Lok Sabha adjourned sine die.

BBC Correspondent Updates 'Spy Scandal' Story

BK301311 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT
30 Jan 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program; report from Bob Jobbins]

[Text] There has been a new development in the Indian spy scandal. Two more men have been remanded in custody in the past 36 hours, bringing the total number of people held since the case first broke to 14. Bob Jobbins reports from Delhi:

[Begin recording] Much of the steam appears to have gone out of the spy scandal — only a few days ago being described here as the betrayal of the century. Now press reports are almost perfunctory — and one newspaper even suggested there may not be enough real evidence to prosecute some of those being held. The Delhi newspaper *THE STATESMAN* says the evidence against several of those arrested is so flimsy it is being propped up in some cases with statements obtained from some of the other accused. The paper says that the only evidence against one of the main accused is that he had 17 bottles of imported liquor in his house, and in the case of another testimony that he had been seen meeting another of the accused just outside Delhi. This would seem to be a far cry from the hundreds of top secret documents which were earlier reported to have been recovered from the houses of those arrested.

However, there is still some life left in the scandal. *THE TIMES OF INDIA* reports today that three women, one of them a foreigner, would be called as prosecution witnesses. According to the paper, they had attended lavish parties given by one of the businessmen charged in the case. The paper says the three women had not been aware of the espionage ring's activities and had only been there for the revelry. They are said to have been paid handsomely and they have been able to identify most of the people arrested so far.

There are still occasional references in the press here to the deputy military attache of the French Embassy, who was recalled from Delhi at the request of the Indian Government, and speculation that he may have been spying for a third country. But, 3 weeks after the announcement of the first arrests, there has still been no official indication of which country they were spying for. [end recording].

ICO Secretary General Meets With Zia 29 Jan*BK300207 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
29 Jan 85*

[Text] The secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening. The meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by the president in his honor.

Talking to newsmen on arrival at Islamabad Airport, the OIC secretary general said he will have wide-ranging exchange of views with the president on a number of issues facing the Muslim ummah [community].

On Afghanistan, the OIC secretary general said the organization sticks to its stand already approved by it during summits.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq conflict, he said he had detailed discussions with the chairman of the ummah peace committee. He expressed the hope that there prevails a much better environment now than before for the resolution of this problem. In reply to a question, he said with the coordinated efforts of all the members of the OIC, the organization will be more active and effective in dealing with matters concerning the Islamic world.

Delhi: Opposition To End Talks With Government*BK301552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
30 Jan 85*

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition leaders have decided not to have any more negotiations with the government. Announcing this in Islamabad, they said that they will continue to boycott the elections.

The leaders made it clear that negotiations cannot be held unless the government comes out with a formula for transfer of power.

Economic Cooperation With Hungary Discussed*BK280509 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
27 Jan 85*

[Text] Avenues of further expansion of trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Hungary were explored at a meeting in Islamabad today between visiting 6-member Hungarian trade delegation and Pakistani officials.

The Hungarian deputy minister of foreign trade, Dr Tibor Melega, led his side while the Pakistani side was led by the federal commerce secretary, Mr Ezharul Haq. The meeting reviewed in depth the existing level of trade between the two countries and agreed that there was need to give further boost to the existing relations.

The Hungarian deputy minister indicated that his country could collaborate with Pakistan in the fields of power generation, railways, and technical education by way of exporting technology and know-how to Pakistan.

Minister Releases Mid-Year Economic Assessment*BK300227 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
29 Jan 85*

[Text] The gross domestic product is provisionally estimated to increase by about 10 percent during the current fiscal year. It would be a record growth year unequaled over the last 37 years.

This was stated by the minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, at a news conference in Islamabad today while releasing the mid-year assessment. He said the fiscal targets of the sixth plan are likely to be met or even exceeded during the first 2 years.

The most encouraging development is the spectacular increase in the expenditure on rural development, which has increased by 68 percent.

In the first 2 years of the current plan, private investment to the tune of 54 billion rupees is likely to materialize, fulfilling 96 percent of the plan target. The planning minister said 23 billion rupees spent on power projects in the last 4 years are beginning to bear fruit. An additional 1,300 megawatts of electricity would be available before June next year. The load shedding will end after June this year. About the balance of payment, he said pressure on it is rising from a number of external developments and the government is fully aware of this situation.

MASHRIQ on Opening of Steel Mill Complex*GF301504 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 24 Jan 85 p 3*

[Commentary by Homayun Adeeb: "Pakistan Joins the Steel Producers' Club"]

[Excerpt] With the formal opening ceremony of the 25-billion-rupee steel mill by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq at Port Bin Qasim, 24 km from Karachi — Pakistan's biggest industrial project — Pakistan has joined the club of steel producing countries.

We now have such a solid foundation that Pakistan can leave the ranks of the developing countries and stand side by side with the developed countries.

An agreement was signed in 1971 with the Soviet Union to set up this mill. Although preliminary work began in 1973, the real job of setting up the mill did not start until 1976. Now all stages of the mill are complete. The mill is capable of producing 1.1 million tons of steel and iron annually.

While we consider this mill as a complete steel complex, there are still more workshops to be installed, in particular the (tandem) mill (which will further process the black plates produced in the cold rolling mill).

Furthermore, there are plans to further expand this steel mill. This expansion will be done in several stages. After the completion of the first expansion stage, its output will rise to 2 million tons per year.

'Increased Assistance' Asked for Afghan Refugees

BK271145 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Commentary By M. Ziauddin]

[Text] The plight of 3 million refugees living in Pakistan has continued to attract the attention of all the freedom-loving people the world over. The entire free world, including the UN, has been assisting Pakistan in its efforts to make the lives of these refugees in the tented villages as tolerable as humanly possible. A number of leaders of the free world have visited these tented villages, observed their living conditions at first hand and were briefed about the conditions under which they left their beloved country and chose to live in a strange land under unfamiliar conditions as long as their country continues to be under the occupation of a foreign army.

Recently the visiting Dutch foreign minister, Mr Hans Van Den Broek, travelled to the Nasirabad tented village near Peshawar and what he saw there made him declare that sight touched him deeply. He reiterated his country's continued political and moral support to the cause of the Afghan people for the restoration of their freedom and sovereignty. He condemned the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and once again called for immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan. He reassured the people of the tented village of the Netherlands' continued support.

He was particularly impressed by the efforts Pakistan is making to alleviate the sufferings of the uprooted refugees. The job of looking after refugees is not an easy one. As it is, it is a complex job relating to provision of shelter, food, clothing, and medical aid. A large number of these refugees comprise women, the aged, and children. Many of them are sick and have to be looked after with great care. In all, there are 300 refugee camps in Pakistan, where people who fled their country following its invasion by the army of a superpower are accommodated. Apart from supplying their daily food needs, the Pakistan Government has established around 500 schools of various levels for the education of refugee children. A large number of dispensaries cater to their health needs. All this is estimated to cost about rupees 3 billion annually, half of which the Pakistan Government has to meet from its own meager resources.

It is a growing problem since the Afghans keep coming to Pakistan at the rate of 6,000 to 9,000 a month. Pakistan has accepted these refugees willingly, as it is convinced of the genuineness of their cause. Besides, they are Muslims, they are neighbors, and they are nonaligned. However, while trying to make their forced migration to Pakistan as comfortable as it could, Pakistan has been pressing for a political solution of the Afghanistan problem. In this, Pakistan has firm support of the

majority of the members of the United Nations. It is also engaged in indirect negotiations with the Karmal regime under the aegis of the United Nations for finding a peaceful solution to the problem. Meanwhile, it continues its efforts to enable the refugees to live honorably in the tented villages.

Pakistan is grateful to all those countries and international charity organizations which have come forward to share its burden. The help which countries like the Netherlands extend to Pakistan in this regard is appreciated by this country greatly. However, so far, there being no sign of any solution to the problem and with the exodus of the refugees from Afghanistan continuing, Pakistan feels that greater efforts should be mounted at the international level to share the escalating pressures on its meager resources. In this respect it looks for increased assistance from all friendly countries, especially those who have sufficient resources to participate in this humanitarian undertaking.

The Dutch foreign minister's remarks in this connection were really encouraging. He said that his visit had provided him with a new motivation to continue endeavors and to try to alleviate the sufferings of Afghan refugees so as to bring about a solution to the Afghan problem that would allow them to return to their homeland. And he very rightly commended the efforts of the Pakistan Government and the people for looking after the refugees so well. His appreciation of Pakistan's endeavors to gather support from the international community to alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan refugees is also a matter of satisfaction for the people of Pakistan, who are not looking for reward for what they are doing for the refugees, but for help in any form, which would not only lighten the burden, but would also make the lives of the refugees in the tented villages less painful and free from unnecessary hardships.

Briefs

Law Ministry Renamed— The Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs has been renamed as the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. The Law Division of the Law Ministry will now be called the Justice Division. This decision has been made in accordance with the orders of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 85 BK]

Border Trade With PRC— The Chinese trade caravan, which is now in Gilgit, has exchanged goods worth about 2 million rupees with Pakistani traders under Pak-China border trade protocol. Both the countries will exchange goods worth 4.5 million rupees from each side during this year. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Jan 85 BK]

BANGLADESH

Abolition of Zonal Martial Law Offices Announced

*BK311115 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1100 GMT
31 Jan 85*

[Text] The offices of the zonal martial law administrators are to be abolished effective tomorrow. This was officially announced in Dhaka today.

Opposition Party Rejects 'Farcical' Election

HK301346 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 30 (AFP) — A leading opposition party has rejected as farcical the election planned in April under the present martial law government.

In a resolution published today, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Khaleda Zia said an election under martial law could not be "free and fair."

The party said the parliamentary poll fixed for April 6 was aimed at "legalising the present illegal government and putting civilian colour to martial law regime."

The resolution reiterated the party's demand for an end to martial law and the formation of a neutral caretaker government before elections.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who took power in a bloodless coup in March 1982, has rejected demands by the two key opposition alliances for the complete withdrawal of martial law.

He has, however, abolished martial law courts and partially restored fundamental rights to fulfil his commitment to relax military rule.

President Ershad yesterday said he would hold the April 6 poll on schedule despite the opposition's stance which has cast an element of uncertainty over the planned election.

SRI LANKA

Eight Suspected Separatists Killed in Mannar

*BK311256 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT
31 Jan 85*

[Text] Eight suspected Tamil separatists died and a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and services uniforms were found in a raid by security forces on a separatist hideout in the northwest of Sri Lanka.

State ministry sources said an estimated 25 separatist suspects escaped into the jungle during the raid by a combined services group in the Mannar area late yesterday. The raid has found substantial number of police and Army uniforms.

'Soft Censorship' of News on Terrorism Planned

*BK311124 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT
31 Jan 85*

[Text] The government is considering the imposition of what has been described as a soft censorship on news relating to terrorist activity. This was revealed by the minister of state, Dr Anandattisa de Alwis, at yesterday's Cabinet briefing.

Dr De Alwis said that the free flow of news, even if it is released by government sources, can have some effect on the security forces. He said it was customary in the rest of the world, where similar situations are faced, to sometimes delay or even not publish what takes place on battlefields.

The minister noted that our security forces are fighting a very ruthless terrorist group. We are in a state of war, as it were, and must not make any mistake about it.

Dr de Alwis also disclosed that in exercising the censorship of news, the government would of course allow a certain amount of latitude. The media would also be consulted on what really should be released.

This soft censorship will come into force in the next few days.

Further on Continuing Iraqi Offensive

'Sweeping' Offensive Launched

GF310800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (WAKH) — An Iraqi military spokesman has announced that the Iraqi forces in the Second (Middle) Corps sector launched a sweeping offensive against the Iranian forces and were able to settle in new positions. The spokesman stressed that the Iraqi forces inflicted enormous losses on the Iranians in life and equipment.

Offensive Fails

LD311533 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31. IRNA — The Iraqi regime, in a bid to attract media coverage and to boost the shattered morale of its troops, launched a limited and futile military offensive Thursday morning, south of Qasr-e Shirin, in Bakhtaran Province.

The Iraqi forces failed to capture Iranian positions and suffered heavy casualties in their attack which was launched in the Chegha Hammam region.

The Islamic combatants crushed an Iraqi attack on the southern end of the Majnun Island on Monday, killing more than 200 Iraqi troops and wounding a large number of others.

These desperate attacks are aimed at overshadowing celebrations marking the sixth anniversary of the Islamic revolution (Feb. 1-11).

During this period in the past three years, the Iraqi regime has resorted to similar military operations. The Islamic combatants defeated one such attack launched in the Chazzabeh pass, in Khuzestan Province two years ago, inflicting heavy casualties.

In the following year, Iraq threatened to bomb several Iranian cities.

And this year too, the Baghdad regime has regrouped its defeated forces to launch so-called offensives in the Majnun Island and in the central sector of the war fronts, while renewing threats of attacking Iranian cities.

Despite its victory claims, the Baghdad regime has not taken any foreign journalist to see the areas so-called captured by the Iraqi forces in the Majnun Island front.

Joint Staff Communique No 1,989

LD301720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] In its Communique No 1,989, the Armed Forces Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: Yesterday, the combative units of Islam, by opening fire on enemy vehicle columns on the Panjwin, Haj 'Umran and Sardasht fronts, disrupted activities of the Saddamist forces and inflicted some losses and casualties on the aggressors. In the Marivan sector,

five Iraqi troop bunkers were set ablaze and seven of the mercenaries were either killed or wounded. Also, in the Haj 'Umran sector, two enemy group bunkers were destroyed.

Sporadic exchange of fire continued between our units and the enemy forces on the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam. Thanks to the artillery and mortar fire of the combative units of Islam on the enemy infantry forces' defensive positions, infiltrating routes, supply routes and concentration points along those fronts, movements, engineering activities, patrol operations, troop movements and operations for strengthening or replacing troops of the Saddamist forces were halted. The visible losses of the enemy on these fronts were the destruction of 11 group bunkers and three observation posts; and at least 32 of their troops were either killed or wounded.

The combatants of Islam on the southern fronts were in full control of the entire sector and, while guarding the regions under their protection, pounded the enemy infantry positions and tank and artillery emplacements. The fire exchange was more intense in the Majnun Islands and the Kushk, Shalacheh, Zobeydah, Talaiyeh, and Chazzabeh regions. Enemy patrol activities were crushed in the vicinity of Nahr-Anbar. In the Khorramshahr sector, our warriors clashed with an enemy patrol group. In the course of this clash, the Iraqi troops suffered some losses and after leaving their weapons behind, were forced to flee.

Our units destroyed five group bunkers and observation posts of the aggressors on the western bank of Arvand River.

Cabinet Meets 30 Jan

LD302339 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] This morning, the Cabinet held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

At this meeting, current affairs in the country, as well as regional political developments were discussed and views were exchanged.

During this discussion, the supervisor of the Defense Ministry [as heard], while referring to events and methods employed during the futile attack by the Ba'thist enemy on the southern areas of the Majnun Islands, explained the situation in the operational area. He noted that the attack was crushed thanks to the awareness of Islam's fighters, which resulted in the routing of the Ba'thist forces and their leaving some casualties behind.

Later, the prime minister, who had led a high-ranking delegation on a tour of Turkey, Cuba and Nicaragua, reported the results of his meetings and negotiations with the authorities of those countries. During the report, while referring to the expressions of anxiety by the United States, and the reflections of the tour in the Western media, the prime minister stated: The hurried Western reaction and the world's arrogance in response to the stances taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran demonstrate the robustness and greatness of the Islamic revolution in the world. The support and enthusiasm of the world's Islamic and revolutionary countries for our models, too, prove the same thing.

Minister of Commerce Abedi-Jafari reported on the commercial and economic agreements reached by the delegation with Turkey.

Continuing the meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati delivered a report to the Cabinet on the results of the Tehran meeting among the three countries of Iran, Libya and Syria.

In conclusion, the Economic and Services Commissions reports were discussed. During this discussion, the suggestions put forward by the administrative bodies were introduced and some of them were approved as follows:

Appropriation of a sum of 100 million rials for Kerman's Barfsir project for grazing land development, to be carried out by Falahat Cooperative Company, and appropriation of a sum of 673 million rials for the continuation of Salma'n Project by the Energy Ministry. The bill related to inclusion of years of service of assistant-lieutenants [as heard].

The suggestion by the Cabinet's Economics and Finance Commission that governmental institutions and bodies refrain from using general state funds for running congratulations, condolences or similar advertisements in the media was also introduced and approved.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Dismisses Offensive

LD301947 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the recent Iraqi offensive in the southern fronts as void of military value, saying it was only like other "daily encounters" taking place in the battle fronts. The Majlis speaker also praised the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) for providing flight security and thwarting hijacking attempts.

Rafsanjani who is one of Imam Khomeyni's representatives to the Supreme Defence Council, said the attack by the Iraqi forces against Iranian positions on the Majnun Islands Monday "did not have any particular military value," despite Iraq's big propaganda campaign for its so-called victory.

"I mean it was like the kind of encounters which take place in the fronts every day. It was a normal thing."

More than 200 Iraqi soldiers were killed and many others were wounded in the attack, which began before dawn on Monday. They were backed by heavy air and ground fire. However, Rafsanjani said the Iraqi defeat demonstrated the strength of the Islamic forces, "who will crush any plot decisively."

Rafsanjani who was speaking to a visiting group of IRGC flight security men today, said the world powers with the help of Iran's southern neighbours, had made an attempt to weaken the Islamic Republic by supporting Iranian hijackers.

"The world arrogant powers used internal mercenaries, with the help of our bad neighbours" in the Persian Gulf to carry out hijackings on board Iranian planes. He added that countries in

the Persian Gulf had become middle-of-the-road "garages and guest-houses" for Iranian planes and their hijackers on their way to Baghdad or Paris.

He commended the security men for thwarting "this shameful conspiracy."

Iraqi POW's Meet Reporters

LD301614 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — The Islamic Republic will soon repatriate 30 handicapped Iraqi prisoners of war unilaterally through the International Red Cross.

Domestic and foreign reporters spoke with the Iraqi POW's Wednesday about their living in Iranian camps.

Iraqi 'Psychological Campaign' Viewed

LD302218 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 30 Jan 85

["Saddam's Psychological Campaign Against the Islamic Revolution, an IRNA Commentary" — IRNA heading]

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Jan. 30, IRNA — With the approach of the ten-day Dawn ceremonies which mark the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the psychological and propaganda campaign by the Baghdad regime has been intensified.

For almost a month now, by shelling the villages in Dashte Azadegan, Gilan-e Gharb and Ilam Province, Iraq has tried to shake the resolve of the Muslim people of Iran to celebrate the ten-day Dawn ceremonies, and by doing this, the Iraqis have blatantly broken their undertaking not to attack civilian targets inside Iran.

The psychological campaign of the Baghdad regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran is not something which has been limited to the past year or two, in fact, from the start of the Iraqi imposed war against Iran, these noisy propaganda campaigns which also receive the backing of Western mass media, have been going on.

On Feb. 6, 1981, and while the Iranian people were celebrating the ten-day Dawn ceremonies Iraq launched an attack against Chazzebah pass to the west of Bostan in Khuzestan Province deploying two full divisions of its army.

In the course of this unsuccessful attack, the Iraqi aggressors suffered over 2,000 deaths and at least 100 of them were captured by the Iranian combatants, but at the same time, there was such a propaganda blitz about the imaginary success of the Iraqi forces in the imperialist and Zionist mass media that even Saddam himself was misled into believing that may be his forces had retaken the city of Bostan.

One year later, and coinciding with the ten-day Dawn ceremonies Iraq rocketed the Iranian cities of Dezful and Andimeshk and the city of Abadan was also the target of heavy Iraqi shelling while at the same time, Iraq's propaganda machine made a lot

of ado about the Iraqi regime's resolve to attack the Iranian Persian Gulf oil loading terminal at Kharg Island — all to no avail.

Only last year, and at the time when Iranians were preparing to mark the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, by insinuating that Iran had shelled the Iraqi cities of Mandali, Basra, Zobeidah and Khaneqin, the Iraqi regime moved to shell twelve Iranian cities, and as the ten-day Dawn ceremonies drew nearer, the number of Iranian cities which were supposed to be shelled by Iraq was raised to 22.

Once again the Iraqi propaganda campaign aimed at disheartening the Iranian people failed abjectly just like the military operations of the Baghdad regime against Islamic Iran. The Iranian authorities gave Saddam such a decisive response that in addition to Baghdad's propaganda machinery, imperialist propaganda organizations also fell silent.

This year too, with the approach of the ten-day Dawn celebrations in Iran, through aimless military offensives and employing propaganda techniques, the Iraqi regime is once again trying to attract the public opinion of the Iranian people to its desperate acts. Not long ago, this Iraqi campaign was started with the circulation of a false rumour in Iraq that Iran was planning to attack Iraqi border cities.

To justify this false rumour which was fabricated by the Baghdad regime, last month Iraq launched an attack on the villages in Dasht-e Azadegan, Gilan-e Gharb and Ilam regions trying to exert psychological pressure on the Islamic Republic.

Since this strategy did not produce the results wanted by Baghdad, they resorted to "doctoring" a film for television which falsely pretended to be a report on the shelling of a school in the Iraqi city of Basra by the Iranian forces. The film was made so naively that even non-professional viewers could see how it was false and that how Iraq was planning to manipulate this "doctored" film as a pretext for its planned attack against civilian targets in Iran.

At the same time, by regrouping its defeated forces, Iraq embarked on an unsuccessful attack against the Iranian-held Majnun Islands, a move which, as was expected, resulted in another heavy defeat for the Iraqi aggressors.

By attacking the Majnun Islands, Iraq was pursuing several objectives. First of all, it wanted to boost the morale of the Iraqi forces who have been in a state of alert for at least the past six months in anticipation of pending Iranian offensive, and perhaps also to harass the positions of the Iranian forces as well.

On the other hand, the Iraqi regime wanted to tell the world that it was still capable of launching an attack. Therefore, as was expected, regardless of the defeat they suffered in their Manjun Islands attack, Iraqi commanders cabled their congratulations to Saddam, informing him of their imaginary victory.

Isn't it amazing that international mass media which must have a good knowledge of the inside workings of Baghdad's propaganda campaigns repeats the same diatribes that churn out of Baghdad? If one realizes that in addition to military, economic

and political support, propaganda support also plays a major part in upholding Saddam's puppet regime, then the world mass media which is controlled by international Zionism regards this as one of their main duties to Saddam and that they would never be able to act in an unbiased manner as far as their real enemy, Islam, is concerned.

This year too will prove that despite its futile and desperate acts, Saddam will not be able to create any diversion for the Muslim people of Iran who are as determined as ever to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the victory of their Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i Confers With Ground Forces Commander *LD301640 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 30 Jan 85*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — Iranian ground forces commander, Colonel Ali Sayyad-Shirazi, met and held talks with president and head of the Supreme Defence Council, Ali Khamene'i, here Wednesday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Indian Ambassador *LD301844 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 30 Jan 85*

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30, IRNA — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday called for further expansion of cultural, political and economic ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India.

In a meeting Wednesday with the Indian Ambassador to Iran Ashok Bhalchandra Gokhale, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the present situation in Iran and India necessitated the two countries to strengthen ties for the reconstruction of damage caused by the superpowers.

He deplored the toxic gas leak in Bhopal, India, which killed more than 2,500 people and injured thousands of others.

The Indian ambassador, describing existing ties as very good and friendly, said his country was highly interested in the progress made by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He stressed that both countries observed the principle of non-alignment.

Khamene'i Meets With Ambassador to Nicaragua *LD311035 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 31 Jan 85*

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31, IRNA — The Iranian ambassador to Nicaragua, Mohammad Peyrovi, met and talked with President Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday night.

During the meeting, Peyrovi, reported to the president on his post. The president stressed the need for further strengthening of relations between Iran and Nicaragua and issued the necessary guidelines in this respect.

President Khamene'i Receives Ambassador to Libya
LD301849 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i received the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Libya, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khansari today.

During the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Khansari reported to the president on issues related to his diplomatic tenure in Libya.

The president emphasised the need for further expansion of friendly relations between Iran and Libya and provided relevant council in this respect.

Velayati Backs Libyan Stance on Ethiopian Jews
LD291058 Tripoli JANA in English 0827 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, 7 Jumada Awal, 29 Jan, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian minister of foreign affairs, praised the brave attitude the Jamahiriya took regarding the hiring Numayri's conspiracy against the Palestinian people's cause and the smuggling of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine.

Addressing reporters at Mehrabad International Airport while he was bidding farewell to the Libyan Arab delegation, he said that Jamahiriya is the first Arab and Islamic state which called for an emergency session of the League of Arab States to be convened to study this treacherous hiring Numayri has committed.

Dr Velayati described the smuggling operation of Ethiopian Jews 'Falashas' as a joint U.S.-Zionist conspiracy hiring Numayri carried out to satisfy his masters in the American black house. He said that the puppet regime in Sudan has, from the very beginning, approved the treacherous David stable accords and accepted them. So it was not strange that such regime carry such hostile actions against the Arab and Islamic nations especially the Palestinian people.

Dr Velayati said that Jamahiriya, Syria and Iran had sent a letter to the new general secretary of the Islamic Conference asking him to interfere in the matter and [words indistinct] the will of Muslims on the Sudanese regime to review his hostile attitudes towards Muslims, for, according to the Islamic Conference decisions, any Islamic state act or do anything which will support the Zionist enemy in any way should be boycotted by all other Islamic states for it did not abide by these decisions. [sentence as received]

Commentary Views Iran-Libya-Syria Conference
GF301722 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Libya has ended in Tehran. It is hoped that the aims of this meeting will be considered in the

Islamic and Arab worlds. This extraordinary meeting came as a result of the difficult times that the Islamic region, from Morocco to Afghanistan, is going through. It was inevitable that a united stand would have to be taken on making right and judicious decisions on lessening the gravity of the current crisis.

Muslims in the Philippines are being subjected to mass eradication at the hands of rancorous crusaders. Their fates are no more favorable in Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, and Sudan at the hands of the crusaders' supporters and their small allies. Meanwhile, we observe dissoluteness in Mubarak's trend and from his words read submission and obsequiousness to the Zionist enemy.

The Islamic escalated crises have made the Islamic Republic shoulder big responsibilities and adopt fundamental considerations. It has undertaken to defend all Muslims, the deprived, and the oppressed, based on its Islamic doctrine. For this reason plots are being directed against the Islamic Republic and all who are striving for a bright future for the Islamic world, which can only be achieved through the efforts of its faithful sons. The Islamic Republic has devoted great efforts to this big task.

The tripartite meeting of the Islamic Republic, Syria, and Libya was a step on the path that must lead to the unification of the Islamic nation's forces. How great this united Islamic force would be and how serious its effect would be on the imperialists if the Muslims gravitated toward their great goals. The Islamic Republic has endeavored to use its international status and popularity to achieve the goals of the Islamic nation by saving it from current imperialist plots and preventing the adulteration of history through submission.

Commentary on U.S. View of Iran-Nicaragua Ties
GF301948 Tabriz Domestic Service in Armenian 1730 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] On 26 January, Mr Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, concluded a week-long visit to Turkey and Nicaragua, (?after which he) returned to Tehran. Foreign radios made various comments on this trip. In the opinion of these radios, the purpose of the Iranian prime minister's visit to Turkey was to pursue a new (?economic) goal. Meanwhile, the prime minister's visit to Nicaragua and his talks with the Nicaraguan president and various officials, particularly after Reagan's statement that the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for Nicaragua is dangerous, became an important topic of news on the radios of the international imperialists.

On Saturday, 25 January, VOA quoted *THE WASHINGTON POST* as saying that in a speech on the previous day President Reagan declared that the support displayed by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Nicaraguan Sandinists is a serious danger. President Reagan stated that the Tehran regime is providing financial and military aid to the Sandinists. He said that the Nicaraguan Government has been attacking neighboring countries since August 1979. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Nicaragua are two countries that came forward together to struggle against U.S. colonialism in two sensitive

regions of the world: Central America and the Persian Gulf. It is natural that U.S. imperialism will spare no effort to stop relations between these two countries and will try to poison the atmosphere. Reagan's government describes countries that struggle for freedom and independence as terrorists, but the U.S. Government itself is the founder of terrorism.

Industrial Minister's Visit to Bulgaria Detailed

LD302058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] During its 4-day stay in Bulgaria, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi, visited 11 manufacturing and research units of that country's heavy industries. The delegation also met and held talks with that country's deputy prime minister, foreign minister and ministers of machine building, transportation and foreign trade.

According to a central news unit report, at the conclusion of the above meetings some agreements were signed on expanding cooperation between the two countries in the field of machine manufacturing. On the basis of this report, the two countries' officials reached agreement on the export of trucks and minibuses to Bulgaria and the import of machine tools and metals needed for heavy industries.

On the basis of this agreement the two countries will cooperate in industrial and technical fields, the transformation of model heavy industrial production units into a fully automatic complex for manufacturing overhead lifting gears, the transformation of model heavy industrial production units into a fully automatic complex for manufacturing overhead lifting gears, the exchange of semi-finished industrial parts between the two countries, and the introduction of courses for training technicians in these fields.

Ayatollah Jannati Addresses Islamic Conference

LD301234 Tehran IRNA in English 1203 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — In the afternoon session of the third conference on Islamic thought, opened in Tehran's Laleh hotel Tuesday morning, four Islamic scholars from Iran and abroad discussed various subjects including people's role in Islamic government, current Islamic governments, and the international role of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The session which was attended by 80 scholars and ulema from Muslim and non-Muslim countries, as well as some 400 Iranian ulema, was chaired by Ayatollah Jannati, head of the Islamic propagation organization.

The head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim, was the first speaker of the session who talked about the role of government and council in Islam.

Professor Mohammad Toureh of Senegal, talked about the contemporary rulers of the Islamic countries and the criteria that a true Islamic ruler should have. Those rulers who are giving away

natural resources of their countries to foreign powers and introducing corrupt Western cultural values to their people, do not deserve the status they are holding, he said. He further expressed his concern over the current situation in Islamic societies.

The Senegali professor said that the cause of current problems of the Muslim nations was their rulers who were mostly alienated from God.

He stressed the need for implementing Islamic laws in Muslim countries and said that other nations should follow the pattern of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The head of London Muslim Institute, Kalim Seddiqui, was the next speaker of the session who talked about the moral standards of government in Islam. He stressed the importance of ethical values in building an Islamic society and in Islamic movements. However, he added, such values have been mostly ignored by the rulers of the Islamic countries and in most cases, these rulers have violated codes of Islam.

Further in his speech, Seddiqui urged the Islamic thinkers and philosophers to make lasting efforts towards the realization of the Islamic movements. He said that these scholars should be in the current of developments in Islamic countries.

Seddiqui who is a Sunni Muslim stressed the need for unity among Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims and added that there was no difference of opinion among them with respect to Islamic government.

Lebanese Muslim Leader Speaks

LD302241 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — A prominent leader of the Muslim community in Lebanon stressed in a speech today that the world powers and their reactionary clients in the "Islamic" countries are out to halt the influence of the Islamic Republic in the world of Islam.

Addressing the second-day of the Islamic Thought Conference in Tehran, Alim Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said Muslims were lost in the various Western ideologies, including nationalism and Marxism, and the rulers of their countries were trying to conform these ideologies with their system of government.

"The sole and firm effort of the governments (in Islamic countries) is to implement the theory of separation of the state and religion," the Lebanese alim said.

"The result of this has been that Islam plays a minor role in the people's political lives in the Islamic societies and with such a policy colonialism has seized a new chance to be present in the Islamic countries."

Alim Fadlallah added that the Islamic Republic, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, was the best example where Islamic laws are implemented, unlike the superficial measures recently introduced in other Muslim countries.

"There are many examples of individuals who only claim to observe Islam in their dependent countries...they see the shining Islam rising above the horizon in Iran and they are trying to prevent their people from being enlightened by it," he added.

He described Sudan as one such country where the government, which is the source of crime in that country, was trying to wipe out crime by enforcing Islam.

The conference on Islamic thought is the third of its kind held in Tehran during the past two years. About 80 Muslim and non-Muslim scholars and ulema from 23 countries have attended, as well as some 400 Iranian ulema and scholars.

Another speaker in today's session was an Egyptian who called on all Muslims to take up struggle in a manner similar to the prophets.

"Today, silence is a crime (for Muslims). We must exert efforts and wage jihad for the establishment of an Islamic government," he said.

He added that Muslims have faced problems since the day they abandoned their Islamic laws.

Dr. Ahmad Hooper, a Muslim scholar and journalist from Switzerland said in his speech that the Islamic Republic had not only become stronger and more stable in the world political scene, but that an Islamic movement was spreading worldwide.

As a journalist, he said he was witness to the fact that although the Western press are against the Islamic Republic, they have admitted that the Islamic Republic of Iran is enjoying total stability and that it is invincible.

Other speakers today were the leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRO), Hojjat ol-Islam Mahmoud Hashemi, the secretary general of the Islamic Tabligh at in Uganda. Shaykh 'Ali Abu Bakr, Qur'an Professor Ibrahim Soukna from Gabon, and Iranian scholar, Alim Mohammad Taqi Ja'fari.

There were also speakers from Japan and Bangladesh.

Clandestine Notes Guards' Collective Resignation
GF301748 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT
30 Jan 85

[Text] Mohsen Rezai's, commander of the Revolution Guards Corps, has moved into Neyawaran Palace and has housed his command there.

Meanwhile, reports from Tehran say that 100 Revolution Guards personnel have signed a collective resignation and asked to be released from the Revolution Guards Corps of the Islamic Republic.

The reports add that the corps has not accepted their collective resignation and has asked that individual resignations be filed at the Revolution Guards Corps headquarters.

Our correspondent in Tehran says this collective action has since widened rifts and disagreement among the corps leaders and has intensified the power struggle between those Revolution Guards following the Imam's line and those who follow the government.

Clandestine Reports Evin Prison Official Fired
GF301850 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian
1500 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Asadollah Lajvardi, the (?butcher) of Evin Prison, has been fired.

According to reports, following a statement by Hoseyni 'Ali Montazeri recommending the release of political prisoners whose detention was no longer necessary, and in view of Lajvardi's opposition to any moderation shown to political prisoners, Montazeri at last succeeded in firing him.

Asadollah Lajvardi had become notorious for the crimes he committed, especially at Evin Prison in Tehran under the Islamic Republic.

Of all the hated faces in the Islamic Republic's regime Asadollah Lajvardi is easily the second most hated person after Khomeyni.

During his control of Evin Prison, Lajvardi founded a permanent criminal organization that could not be penetrated by any official of the Islamic regime.

He was an executioner who must have easily broken the record of killings set by the bloodthirsty Sadeq Khalkhali before him. Lajvardi succeeded in killing 200 persons in one 24-hour period and thus proved beyond doubt to the leaders of the Islamic Republic his bloodthirsty nature and cruelty.

From 1981 until recently Lajvardi was deciding the fate of all political prisoners and in fact thousands of persons were executed by firing squads under his orders. They were executed without benefit of trial.

In Tehran it is being said that Asadollah Lajvardi is now busy seeking revenge against those who fired him.